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**THE TOILER**

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Uncle Sam doesn't mind if the workers know how little they get out of the wealth produced by them. According to a Washington dispatch the government has just put under the noses of the workers the fact that only one family out of every ten in this country earns enough to live in "decency and comfort". The Department of Labor has figured out that in order to live in "decency and comfort" a family of five should have at least an income of \$2,260 per year. It appears, on the other hand, that only 2,000,000 persons have an income of \$2,000 per year. That many made income tax returns which are required of everybody who earns \$2,000. If these two million represent that many families, there remain some hundred million people, or about twenty million families whose income is below \$2,000. If the workers were smart they would take the hint and proceed to find out why almost all of them get less than enough than is required to buy "decency and comfort" for themselves and their families, and then get together and make such changes in the industrial system as will stop the two million from robbing the other hundred million of the opportunity for a decent living.

The wrong way of gaining shop control is illustrated in an agreement entered into by the Leather Goods Workers Union with the manufacturers association of that industry of New York City. The union entered into a contract for one year, providing for a joint board of sanitary control, a joint employment bureau and other similar arrangements. In place of keeping their own organization separate and relying upon their own power to compel the manufacturers to make such improvements as they demand, they have entered into a partnership with the bosses to help them manage their factories. The usual result of such partnerships is to unite the union officials with the bosses to keep the workers in line for what the bosses want. The shop control which the workers should fight for is control

by a shop committee elected by the workers in each shop to place their demand before the management and see that they are carried out. Not partnership with the bosses but to usurp their power is the function of the shop committee.

The Kansas miners seem to care little about the action of the state government in passing laws making it illegal for them to strike. They decided they wanted a five day week in spite of wishes of their bosses—both mine owners and national union officials. When they were fined by the Industrial Court for putting the five day week into effect, they simply refused to work at all. President Howat has invited Governor Allen and Attorney General Hopkins "to see if they can get the men to return to work." When the workers really have the courage to use their power and stick together to get what they want, there isn't much hope for the capitalists.

I can't afford to keep 15,000 employees working when there is no demand for their production" says President Wood of the American Woolen Co. Which means that workers can't have work when Mr. Wood doesn't get the profit he thinks he should have for his stockholders. It is perfectly all right to drive the workers back to work through injunctions and soldiers even if they think that their wages are not what they should be, as the government did in the coal miners strike.

In a previous issue we commented on the program of industrial slavery drawn by a committee of the National Chamber of Commerce. This program provided that the workers are to work as many hours as they can without breaking down, are to receive just enough wages to keep them fit for work and are under a "social obligation" to produce the output required by society. It demanded the open shop and the prohibition of strikes on public utilities. The program was submitted to a referendum vote of the local Chambers of Commerce which are united in the National organization. The result of this referendum, which has just been announced, is the adoption of the program by an all but unanimous vote. The average vote for the various items of the program was over 1600 in favor and not more than 3 opposed. The capitalists now stand united for a program of unlimited skinning of the workers. Will the workers have sense enough to get together on a program of their own to wipe out the whole system of skinning?

## The 'Outlaws' Win.

The Switchmen's Union may have won governmental recognition and have curried favor with it and the railroad kings, but the Chicago Yardmen's Association, the new industrial union of the outlaw strikers has won the men and the power that ensures future success.

The Switchmen's Union is surrendering its contracts in all parts of the country. It is giving up its strongholds to the scabherding Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen. Thousands upon thousands of its former members have deserted it, refusing to become parties to its decayed policies and officials' control. Only a skeleton now remains of the former mighty Switchmen's Union. The body which formerly gave that skeleton life and animation has deserted the dry bones of craft unionism and